

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 have been canceled in favor of new claims 16-27, to highlight patentable features of the invention. Support for the subject matter of new claims 15-27 is provided in the original claims, Fig. 5, and the description accompanying Fig. 5 in the specification. These amendments were not presented earlier due to the unforeseeability of the newly applied rejections.

Claims 1-15 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Herrendoerfer et al. (US 6,481,621) in view of Brown et al. (US 5,941,947) and Ali et al. (US 5,896,506). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 16-27, the Applicants respectfully traverse, based on the following points.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, considered alone or together, fail to teach or suggest the combined features recited in new claim 16 of a client computer that: (1) retrieves information including encrypted data and an access privilege pertaining to the data from a personal security device and stores this information in a memory cache,

(2) verifies from the cached access privilege that a requesting program has a right to access the cached data, and (3) decrypts the cached encrypted data only if the requesting program has a verified access right to the data.

The Final Rejection proposes that Herrendoerfer discloses a local computer 100 that, upon request by a program, retrieves information from a smart card and stores the retrieved information in a memory of the local computer (Final Rejection section 10, lines 3-12). Continuing, the Final Rejection appears to propose that Ali's teachings would provide a skilled artisan with the motivation to modify Herrendoerfer's local computer 100 to include a cache server that pre-fetches anticipated information from a centralized storage and stores this information in a cache memory of the local computer (section 8, lines 1-6). Additionally, the Final Rejection seems to propose that Brown's teachings provide the motivation to further modify Herrendoerfer's local computer so that the added cache memory may store information pertaining to the access rights of the pre-fetched data stored by the cache memory (section 10, lines 13-17 and 19-24).

However, Herrendoerfer discloses in Fig. 3 that when encrypted data is retrieved 350 from the smart card, this encrypted data is immediately decrypted 360, contextually

formatted 370, and saved to memory 380 for subsequent access 390 by a requesting program (see Herrendoerfer col. 5, lines 42-63). Herrendoerfer does not teach caching encrypted data that has not been requested by a program, and Brown and Ali do not supplement Herrendoerfer on this point.

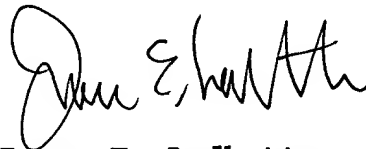
As discussed in the Summary of the Invention, the Applicants have recognized the advantage of balancing the desire for minimizing the time required to access data with that for maintaining data security. The invention defined by claim 16 achieves this advantage by retrieving data from a personal security device to store in a local cache of a client, so that the data may be quickly accessed later, while keeping the cached data encrypted so that it is less vulnerable to surreptitious acquisition. The Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teachings of the applied references do not disclose or suggest this balance and the advantage that it provides.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of the applied references do not render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 16. Independent claim 22 similarly recites the above-described features distinguishing apparatus claim 16 from the applied references, but with respect to a method. Therefore, allowance of claims 16 and 22 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JEL/DWW/att

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